AL-HIDAYAH 1998

BASIC INFORMATION ON IMAAN

NO. 4

ASPECTS OF IMAN IN THE LIGHT OF HADITH:

As many as seventy 70 aspects or branches of Imaan are highlighted in the Hadith. The highest among them is to accept sincerely 'La ilah illallah' and the smallest among them is to remove a harmful thing from the road. (Muslim Sharif). According to Bukhari Sharif, Islaam has over 60 components.

ASPECTS OF IMAAN RELATED TO THE HEART:

(1) To believe in Allaah (2) To believe that all else except Allaah is part of creation. (3) To believe in the existence of Angels. (4) To believe in the Revealed Books of Allaah. (5) To believe in all the Prophets sent by Allaah. (6) To believe in destiny. (7) To believe in Jannat and the promises regarding it. (8) To believe in Jahannum and its punishment. (9) To have love of Allaah. (10) To love or hate a person only for Allaah's sake. (11) To have love for Rasulullaah (S.A.W) (12) Sincerity and purity of intention. (13) To have fear of Allaah and to repent. (14) To fear Allaah's punishment. (15) To hope for Allaah's mercy. (16) Modesty. (17) Gratitude. (18) To fulfill one's promise. (19) Endurance. (20) Humility. (21) To treat Allaah's creation with kindness. (22) To accept one's fate. (23) Faith in Allaah (Tawakkul). (24) To be free from ego and love for oneself. (25) To be free from jealousy. (26) To be free from enmity. (27) To be free from anger. (28) To be free from wordly lusts, i.e. for wealth and position. (29) To be free from ill-will towards others.

ASPECTS RELATED TO SPEECH:

(30) To recite the Kalimah or the formula of Faith. (31) To recite the Noble Qur'an. (32) to acquire Islamic knowledge. (33) To impart Islamic knowledge to others. (34) To make supplication to Allaah. (35) To make zikr and to repent. (36) To avoid idle conversations.

ASPECTS RELATED TO BODILY ORGANS:

(37) Cleanliness including the body, dress, house, ablution, and ghusl, or Tayammum (use earth) when water is not available. (38) The obligatory prayers (salaat) including Fard, wajib, sunnah. (39) To pay zakaat which includes charity (Sadqa-e-Fitr) and hospitality to the guest. (40) Fasting-Fard or Nafl, (41) Perform Haj (pilgrimage to Makkah) and Umrah. (42) A'ti qaf (seclusion during the last part of Ramadaan). (43) To avoid the place full of mischief (Fitna) with a view to guarding one's Faith. (44) To fulfill the vow (Mannat). (45) To remember one's oath (46) To fulfill what is due upon oneself (kaffarah). (47) To cover one's private parts (satr). (48) To offer sacrifice (Qurbani). (49) To perform the ritual burial of the Muslim dead. (50) To repay one's debt. (51) To be honest in dealings. (52) To be witness in favour of truth.

ASPECTS CONCERNING INTER-PERSONAL RELATIONS:

(53) To get married. (54) To fulfill the rights of the wife and children. (55) To treat the parents decently and to serve them. (56) To educate one's children in the Islamic behaviour. (57) To have good relations with relatives and friends and to provide them help. (58) For the servants to obey his master.

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ASPECTS OF IMAAN IN THE LIGHT OF HADITH:

(59) To do justice when one is in the position of leadership. (60) To follow the path of the Sahabah (R.A.) of the Blessed Rasul (S.A.W.) (61) To obey the ruler or the leader provided his order is not contrary to the Shariah. (62) To reform people and to create harmony among them. (63) To Co-operate in good and charitable activities. (64) To invite others to good acts and discourage evil practices. (65) To execute Shariah punishments. (66) To engage in holy war (Jihad) against the non-believers. (67) To return what is in one's custody (Amanat) (68) To lend money to the needy. (69) To take heed of the neighbours' needs and to help them. (70) To be well-behaved. (71) To spend one's wealth with care and to avoid extravagance. (72) To return somebody's Salaam (greeting). (73) When someone says 'Alhamdolillah' on sneezing, to respond by saying 'Yarhamukallah'. (74) To avoid harassing people. (75) To avoid idle pastimes. (76) To remove a harmful thing such as stone, thorn from the road (Umdatulkari Sharhe Bukhari, vol. 1 p. 129).

The Hadith explains over seventy aspects of Imaan. It is a sign of ignorance to rigidly adopt one or two of these aspects and consider that alone to be Imaan. Similarly, it is not proper to criticise those engaged in the other aspects and fields of Imaan.

One should appreciate any good activity carried out in the cause of Islam, and extend one's co-operation to all Islamic activities. We need a group of people who are engaged in preaching and inviting to Islaam (Tableegh). Similarly, we also need Ulema, Hafiz to run the centres of Islamic education (Madressa) and to maintain the Masjids. It is not proper for either of them to criticise the other or to consider his activity useless. May Allaah bestow on us true understanding of the reality of Islaam.

Bukhari Sharif has recorded over 60 branches of Imaan. Hafiz Ibn-e-Hajar (R.A.) has recorded 69 out of which 24 are related to the heart, 7 to the speech, and 38 to the body. It is stated on page 58 of vol. 1 that by counting some of them separately, the total will come to 77.

All the aspects are essential for the Imaan to be perfect. One cannot find the essence of Imaan in one or two aspects leaving out the rest. Nos. 33, 34 above are concerning Islamic knowledge, Nos. 64, 5, 66 are concerning oppossing falsehood. Tableegh, Munazara (Religious Debates Islamic publications are included in this. Similarly, Madressa and Darul Uloom are branches of Deen. As indicated by no. 64 all these institutions, groups and organizations should support and strengthen one another since their common goal is perfection of Imaan.

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